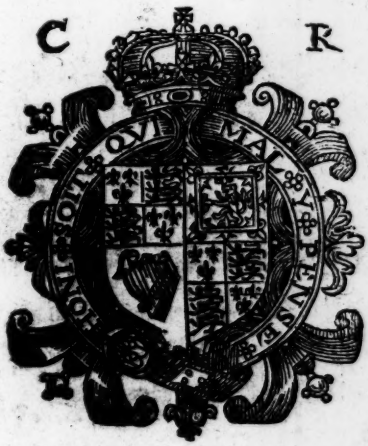
AN ANSWER TO A LETTER Concerning the KINGS *Going from* HOLDENBY *to the* ARMY.



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AN ANSWER TO A LETTER CONCERNING The KINGS going from Holdenby to the ARMIE.

SIR,

YOu desire my opinion concerning this late great businesse, the Kings going into the Army: My judgement is shortly and clearly thus; That His Majesty went thither neither against His own will, nor the desire of the Army. I believe His Majesty had no reason to be very fond of the place

where he was before, or of the great reſpects he received there, being (without doubt) at the top of his preferment, and in all likelihood not to have continued ſo well ſo long, had not ſome ſtronger bridle, then that of allegiance to him, or religion to God, made them forbeare any further attempt. For that which you pleaſed, or rather your fears, to ſuggeſt, *viz.* That His Majeſty is leapt out of the frying-pan into the fire, left ill company, to adhere to worſe; becauſe you are pleaſed to ſay (and you do but ſay it) that this Army conſiſts of Independents, who are worſe principled for Magiſtracy, then thoſe of the other party. I anſwer; that indeed it cannot be denied, that out of divers of their Books we may gather ſuch Concluſions, which for my part I can-

not allow of. But that the Feares and Jealouſies of both Houſes may not forſake their old Maſters, in ſuch a buſie time as this, and wholly take up and poſſeſſe your breſt, I pray Sir reaſonably weigh all circumſtances, and you ſhall finde, that His Majeſty hath fallen into much better company, then either his Countrey-men were to him, or commended him to, (not to ſay, ſold and betrayed him.)

Of theſe men (call them Independents, or what you will) I have had a great deale of experience. I finde them in their way very devout, very juſt in their dealing; and of all the Armies imployed by the Parliament in this unnaturall warre, I will be bold to ſay, none behaved themſelves more civilly, more chriſtianly againſt the adverſe party then they: and conſidering their different judgments and opinions, none were more in charity, and more at unity among themſelves. In all my diſcourſe I had with them (and I talkt with many of them) I finde a great deale of humility and lowlineſſe amongſt them: But as they deſire to exerciſe no ſevere juriſdiction over other mens conſciences, ſo they ſeeme to

deſire in like manner that none may over theirs. I doe not truly perceive that they have a minde to give Law to any other, but onely to procure their owne liberty and quiet: this liberty they cannot have under the Presbytery, who have both in Pulpit and Preſſe declared ſo bitterly (I had almoſt ſaid ſo unchriſtianly) againſt them. How then, or by whom can they hope to enjoy this priveledge more freely, more fully, then by receiving it from Him, who hath the ſole power in theſe Dominions, under *Chriſt Jeſus*, to grant it? And therefore make no doubt, but that there will bee a very right underſtanding begotten betweene the *King* and the *Army*: And that as they are rayſed by

by GOD at this time to re-inveſt him with his juſt, lawfull Rights and Prerogatives, to the eternall ſhame of his *owne Nation*, (the firſt Nation that ever I read of who *ſold their King*) ſo I doubt not but His Majeſty will ſo well reſent this ſeaſonable kindneſſe of theirs, that as they preſerve his *Perſon, Honour*, and *Conſcience*, ſo he will be as tender of theirs. And truly, I think him fit to be brought to condigne puniſhment, as an evill Counſellour, that ſhall even go about to alienate the Kings heart from them, or make him to forget this *handſome loyalty* of theirs, that hath ſo gallantly ſhewed it ſelfe in the middeſt of ſo much cruelty, neglect, and contempt, and when his Majeſties other friends had ſo little power or opportunity to

do

doe him good. And this I deliver the more clearely, becauſe you know I am no party at all in this buſineſſe; but (according to your deſire) I have given my ſenſe: And what you have more to ſay, I pray communicate as freely to

Sir, Your affectionate Friend, to ſerve you.

In favour of the Independent, & proposing that the King shall treat with them & not with the Scots or Presbyterians.

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